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For action

Recommendation to the Executive Board

UNICEF Maurice Pate Award

Summary

The Executive Director *recommends* that, for 1999, the UNICEF Maurice Pate Award be presented to the Tanzanian non-governmental organization *kuleana*, and that the Executive Board approve an allocation of $25,000 from general resources for this purpose.

* E/ICEF/1999/2.

98-32792

1. Nominations for the 1999 UNICEF Maurice Pate Award were invited from the Governments of Board member countries, UNICEF representatives and regional directors and National Committees for UNICEF, in order to ensure a broad range of nominations. A total of 13 nominations were received as follows: four from Africa; five from the Americas and the Caribbean; three from Asia; and one from the Middle East and North Africa.

2. After a careful review of all the nominations, the Bureau endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Director that the 1999 UNICEF Maurice Pate Award be conferred upon the non-governmental organization (NGO) *kuleana*, based in Mwanza, United Republic of Tanzania, in recognition of its significant and innovative contribution to improving the situation of children in that country and to inspiring other NGOs in the region to bring a child rights perspective into their own agendas. *kuleana* (meaning "to nurture each other" in Swahili) has become a role model for achieving social and political change through grass-roots actions.

3. A pioneer in the region, *kuleana* has demonstrated extraordinary innovation and provided a new model for mainstreaming the message of child rights by reaching out to all sectors of society, including government agencies, religious groups, schools, media and key organizations, as well as providing training for individuals and institutions. Most importantly, *kuleana* works directly with children who are homeless, marginalized and living on the street. Its work is focused primarily on two different programmes, the Street Children's Centre and the Child Rights Advocacy Centre.

4. The Street Children's Centre provides shelter, education and medical and legal help to marginalized children, with a special emphasis on girls. Through a *baraza* or 'council' the children living at the Centre participate in its management and decision-making. In 1997, over 300 children lived full-time at the Centre and hundreds more benefited from its support programmes. The Centre's strategy is to focus on children's participation and leadership potential. The Centre also helps to reintegrate children into families and communities, providing a support network and follow-up counseling. The Centre provides access to formal and informal education and its informal curriculum prepares students to re-enter government schools. Many children who live in the Centre and are attending government primary schools have achieved high academic marks. Girls' education is an important focus of *kuleana*'s activities, including learning modules that provide life skills training and youth health counseling and services.

5. The Child Rights Advocacy Centre directs research and publications and also organizes the *kuleana* Resource Library. *kuleana* provides child rights training and orientation for educators, law enforcement officials and magistrates in Mwanza and other towns of the Lake Zone in the United Republic of Tanzania, as well as lobbying policy and decision makers to uphold the rights of children living on the street. *kuleana* has influenced national policy on child rights by working closely with senior government officials. In 1996, *kuleana* played a leading role in an informal coalition of eight NGOs working on the goal of allowing pregnant schoolgirls to continue their education. As a result of these efforts, in June 1996, the Minister of Education announced a new policy of allowing pregnant girls to continue going to school.

6. The Centre's Research Unit promotes research on child rights issues throughout the United Republic of Tanzania and its findings were incorporated, for example, into the report on the state of Tanzanian children for 1997-1998. Research and analysis on such issues as corporal punishment in schools, the expulsion of pregnant schoolgirls, child domestic workers, female genital mutilation, youth health and HIV/AIDS awareness has been brought to the attention of government officials, policy and law makers, educators, activists and the general public through workshops, training sessions, public debates, radio broadcasts and the media. Research has been carried out in collaboration with UNICEF, local NGOs and the Government.

7. *kuleana* publishes popular materials for children and adults on children's rights, with an emphasis on girls, child labour, education and health. Publications, including booklets on child rights (over 2 million copies), posters, calendars and newspaper articles are innovative and attractive but inexpensive enough to be produced for wide distribution throughout the country. As the result of an agreement with the Tanzanian postal authority, four postage stamps on child rights were issued in September 1998.

8. *kuleana's* media outreach includes weekly radio broadcasts, national news articles and workshops with journalists, teachers and community leaders. In 1996,

"Youth Talk", *kuleana's* long-running weekly column in the *Daily News* (the largest circulating English-language newspaper in the country) was renamed the "Child Rights Club". Children often contribute articles and all submissions are written using simple language, ensuring that children and young people can understand and respond.

9. *kuleana* plays a leading role in activities celebrating the Day of the African Child, including fairs, workshops, essay and drawing contests, theatre performances and a procession of over 5,000 students through the city of Mwanza. Community-wide awareness and public engagement in *kuleana's* mission are encouraged through national competitions and exhibitions.

10. *kuleana* has been instrumental in setting a timetable for the establishment of a National Committee on Child Rights, which will review all laws in relation to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Background of the Award

11. At a special session on 11 November 1965, the Executive Board approved the recommendation of the Executive Director that the Nobel Peace Prize money received by UNICEF be used to establish a fund in memory of Maurice Pate, the first Executive Director of UNICEF (E/ICEF/537). Approval in principle was also given to a suggestion that the fund be used to strengthen the training or experience of people serving in child welfare-related fields in countries with which UNICEF was cooperating. It was believed that a memorial fund which contributed actively to the general purpose of UNICEF would have particularly appealed to Mr. Pate.

12. In May 1966, the Board approved a plan submitted by the Executive Director (E/ICEF/542, paras. 76-83) for a memorial fund that would give recognition to the value of regional training facilities in fields benefiting children. Each year the fund would honour an institution in a developing country which adapted and offered its services to people from countries in the region. The institution selected would be given some modest assistance to strengthen its services to other developing countries.

13. By the end of 1978, the original funding and contributions for this Award were exhausted and, in 1979, the Executive Board approved the continuation of the Award from general resources (E/ICEF/P/L.1906 (REC)).

14. At its 1988 session, the Executive Board approved the recommendation that the Board confer annually the UNICEF Maurice Pate Award, as detailed in document E/ICEF/1988/P/L.37, for extraordinary and exemplary leadership in, and contribution to, the advancement of the survival, protection and development of children, whether on a national, regional or global scale. The Award could be conferred upon an institution, organization or individual with or without government affiliation. A timetable and procedures for the nomination and selection process were to be established by the secretariat (see E/ICEF/1988/13, annex I, paras. 45-47, and decision 1988/9).

15. By broadening the criteria for recognition to include (a) achievements on behalf of children, (b) provision of resources to further those achievements and (c) the creation of examples lending themselves to emulation, the Executive Board can use the Award to encourage significant efforts on behalf of children. While encouraging leadership for children by individuals, the monetary benefits of the Award can be used to further relevant activities, whether training, experience exchange or direct programme activity.

16. The Executive Board reviewed and revised the selection process and criteria in 1989, 1990, 1991 and 1994. The latest procedures and criteria as approved by the Board are contained in document E/ICEF/1994/L.16. According to those procedures, nominations shall be sought from the Governments of Board member countries, UNICEF representatives, regional directors and other secretariat offices and National Committees for UNICEF, and the Bureau shall review all nominations. The Award may not be conferred upon any Government or head of State or Government or upon any United Nations organization or official. The main criteria for the Award are: (a) extraordinary and exemplary leadership in, and contribution to, the advancement of the survival, protection and development of children; (b) innovative and inspirational work; (c) action on a national or regional scale with the potential for emulation; and (d) action that serves to encourage voluntary and grass-roots activities. Lastly, due regard shall be given to equitable geographical balance.

17. The UNICEF Maurice Pate Award has been given as follows:

Year	*Institution*	*Region*
Prior to 1980	Various institutions	Africa, Asia, Americas and the Caribbean, Middle East and North Africa, industrialized countries and global
1981	College of Health Sciences, Bahrain	Middle East and North Africa
1982	University of the West Indies (regional institution)	Americas and the Caribbean
1983	Pan-African Institute for Development	Africa
1984	International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh	Global
1985	National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development, India	South Central Asia
1986	The League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	Global
1987	The Catholic Church of El Salvador	Americas and the Caribbean
1988	Pembinaan Kesejahteraan Keluarga (Family Welfare Movement), Indonesia	East Asia and Pakistan
1989	Madame Suzanne Mubarak, Egypt	Middle East and North Africa
1990	Professor Olikoye Ransome-Kuti, Nigeria	West and Central Africa
1991	Child-to-Child Trust, United Kingdom	Industrialized countries
1992	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee, Bangladesh	South Asia
1993	The People and State of Ceara, Brazil	Americas and the Caribbean
1994	All-China Women's Federation, China	East Asia and the Pacific
1995	Professor Ihsan Dogramaci, Turkey	Central and Eastern Europe, Commonwealth of Independent States and Baltic States
1996	Regional Centre for Health and Development, Benin	West and Central Africa
1997	Legal Assistance Centre, Namibia	Eastern and Southern Africa
1998	Pacific Regional Human Rights Education Resource Team	East Asia and the Pacific